

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

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AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0475

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: SPC DRAFT GUIDANCE ON EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL

REF: USNATO 6775

DELEGATION HAS FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON DRAFT TEXT IN
REFTEL:

1. IN ESSENCE, THE DRAFT COMMUNICATES WESTERN AGREE-
MENT IN PRINCIPLE TO NEGOTIATE ON A FREEZE AGREEMENT
WITH THE EAST.

2. THOSE ALLIES WHO ARE PRESSING THIS COURSE HAVE
BASED THEIR DESIRE TO DO SO ON THEIR ASSESSMENT THAT
THE EASTERN PROPOSAL IF MADE PUBLIC COULD CAUSE

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DIFFICULTIES FOR THEM WITH PUBLIC AND PARLIAMENTARY OPINION.

3. ALTHOUGH BASED ON EXPERT KNOWLEDGE, THIS CONCLUSION IS AT THIS POINT HYPOTHETICAL, AS IS THE IMPLICIT ASSESSMENT THAT THE NATO ALLIES COULD NOT MAKE CLEAR TO PUBLIC AND PARLIAMENTARY OPINION WHY THEY CONSIDER A FREEZE AN UNSOUND IDEA.

4. IN OTHER WORDS, BECAUSE EAST HAS NOT YET MADE BROAD PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN FOR FREEZE, THOSE ALLIES SUPPORTING THE IDEA OF ACCEPTING A FREEZE DO NOT KNOW ACTUAL WESTERN PUBLIC AND PARLIAMENTARY REACTION TO THIS IDEA.

5. RATHER THAN INCUR THE DIFFICULTIES OF NEGOTIATING A FREEZE PROPOSAL WHICH MAY BE USED BY THE EAST TO BLOCK NEGOTIATION ON SERIOUS REDUCTIONS, IF THE EAST LEAKS THEIR FREEZE PROPOSAL, THE ALLIES SHOULD FIRST TEST PARLIAMENTARY AND PUBLIC OPINION EMPIRICALLY.

6. THEN, ON THE BASIS OF THE ACTUAL REACTION, THEY SHOULD DECIDE WHETHER THE PUBLIC AND PARLIAMENTARY REACTION IS SUCH AS TO JUSTIFY THE ALLIED MOVEMENT TO NEGOTIATE ON A FREEZE.

7. THEY CAN HOLD THIS OPTION OPEN AND TEST REACTION TO ALLIED ARGUMENTS WHY A FREEZE IS NOT DESIRABLE BY SAYING THEY ARE STUDYING THE IDEA OF A FREEZE BUT ARE SKEPTICAL ABOUT IT FOR REASONS THEY WOULD STATE.

8. FOR THE ABOVE REASONS, WE SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING CHANGES IN THE DRAFT TEXT:

A. LAST SENTENCE OF LEAD PARAGRAPH, REPLACE "POINTS" WITH "DIFFICULTIES."

B. LAST SENTENCE OF LEAD PARAGRAPH, DROP PHRASE "FOR THE ALLIES." REPLACE IT WITH "REASONS WHY THE ALLIES ARE SKEPTICAL ABOUT THIS IDEA."

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C. THIRD TIC, DROP FIRST SENTENCE. THE EAST HAS ALREADY AGREED TO LIMIT THE DURATION OF A FREEZE AND IT WOULD BE A TACTICAL MISTAKE FOR THE ALLIES TO POSE THIS AS A CONDITION.

D. THIRD TIC, SECOND SENTENCE, ADD AFTER THE WORD "MUST," THE WORDS "DEMONSTRABLY BE."

E. DROP FINAL PARAGRAPH WHICH AGAIN
MAKES ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THAT THE ALLIES ARE WILLING IN
PRINCIPLE TO NEGOTIATE ON A FREEZE.RESOR

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